



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, DC 20530

JUN 30 2004

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

This responds to your letter, dated June 2, 2004, which requested that the Department of Justice appoint a special counsel to investigate whether Vice President Dick Cheney violated 18 U.S.C. § 208 through his alleged involvement in the award of a sole-source, no-bid contract for Iraqi oil recovery to his former employer, Halliburton.

We have carefully reviewed your letter and concluded that the appointment of a special counsel is not warranted at this time. We appreciate your interest and want to assure you that all allegations relating to this matter will be handled responsibly and appropriately. Also, with regard to your concern that Vice President Cheney's conduct may have violated 18 U.S.C. § 208, we note that 18 U.S.C. § 202(c) specifically exempts the Vice President from the coverage of 18 U.S.C. § 208.

Please do not hesitate to contact this Office if you would like additional assistance regarding any other matter. We are sending an identical response to the other Members who joined in your letter to us.

Sincerely,

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General